



News Release

U.S. Representative Chris Chocola

Second District, Indiana

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On the Web: <http://Chocola.house.gov>

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Chocola Supports Comprehensive National Energy Plan

Long overdue policy heading to president for signature

WASHINGTON – For the fourth time during his time in Congress, U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) voted to approve a comprehensive national energy plan, H.R. 6, the “Energy Policy Act.” The U.S. House of Representatives passed the House-Senate negotiated conference agreement today, on a bipartisan 275-156 vote.

“I believe we need to have a national energy strategy in place that will help and guide us over the long term,” said Chocola. “With Indiana being one of the largest corn producing states, the legislation we are passing today will only enhance Indiana’s prominence in the ethanol market. We need to move away from our dependence on foreign sources of energy, and instead utilize the energy resources we have right here at home. This legislation allows us to do that.”

The Energy Policy Act represents the most sweeping energy legislation in decades. The legislation seeks to lower energy prices for consumers, spur the economy, create hundreds of thousands of jobs, and take unprecedented steps to promote greater energy conservation and efficiency.

Specifically, the legislation addresses rising gasoline prices and our dependency on foreign oil by encouraging increased domestic production of oil. Incentives to do this include streamlining the permit process, promoting a greater refining capacity to bring more oil to market, and increasing the gasoline supply by stopping the proliferation of expensive regional boutique fuels. In order to scale back demand for oil, the legislation encourages the use of vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells and increases funding for Department of Transportation work to improve fuel-efficiency standards.

Additionally, the agreement promotes clean and renewable fuels by providing incentives for clean coal technology and renewable energies such as biomass, wind, solar, and hydroelectricity.

“For far too long, America has been without a comprehensive energy plan, and today consumers are paying the price – literally – at the pump and in their heating bills,” said Chocola. “The Energy Policy Act contains a balanced package of production and conservation measures that will help America reduce its dependence on unstable sources of foreign oil while meeting its energy needs well into the 21st Century. By placing us on a path to produce more energy here at home and fostering greater conservation and efficiency, this bill will strengthen our hand over the often volatile price of energy.”

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